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Washington - Rep. Charlie Wilson joined a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives to support legislation that will invest in education, health care and vital scientific research. The Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill was approved by a 276-140 vote.

The bill approved by Congress:

- Makes college more affordable by increasing the maximum Pell Grant by \$390, which is on top of an increase of \$260 the Democratic-led Congress enacted in February.
- Helps raise the achievement levels of America's students by providing \$2 billion over 2007 and \$1 billion over the President's request for No Child Left Behind programs.
- Expands access to health care for the uninsured by investing in initiatives that will provide new access to health care for more than 2 million uninsured Americans.
- Invests in life-saving medical research by providing a \$750 million increase for the National Institutes of Health

The appropriations bill also includes \$250,000 for Hospice of the Valley in Steubenville and \$150,000 for the NewLife Academy of Information Technology in East Liverpool.

Hospice of the Valley will use the money to launch a pilot technology program that will computerize medical records, tests and prescriptions. The program aims to be a best-practices leader for all hospice programs in Ohio.

“Electronic medical records are just common sense,” Wilson said. “They save time, money and mistakes. I'm pleased to help bring this next step in healthcare to the Valley.”

NewLife provides an intensive training curriculum in Information Technology (IT) for persons from distressed communities. The funding they will receive will help to create IT jobs by expanding NewLife's IT curriculum and increasing the number of class offerings, purchasing equipment and establishing a high school pilot program in Microsoft and Open Source software development.

"Technology means jobs and jobs are my top priority for residents of Ohio's Sixth District," Wilson said. "I'm so proud to help NewLife expand their good work in the community."